

PERFINNED ENVELOPE from John Evans

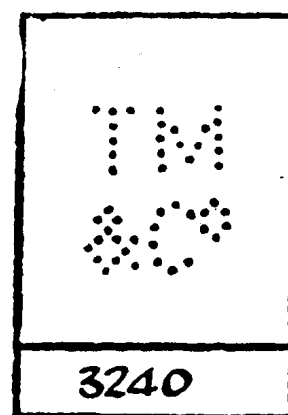
I have in my collection an envelope of very thin light green paper. There is a very faint light blue oval handstamp on the front which reads "ACCOUNT BOOK DEPOT" around the edge with inside, the text "W C RIGBY BOOKSELLER STATIONER & NEWSAGENT 74 KING ST ADELAIDE".

The envelope is franked with a 1d lilac perfinned TM/C° (T3240.01) cancelled with London hooded circle for JU 19—, backstamped THOS MEADOW & CO 19 JUN 93. It is addressed to Messrs ?? Bentley & Sons, Publishers, 8 New Burlington St., London W.

So, it was sent from a London address to another London address: so where does the W G RIGSBY of ADELAIDE enter the story?

[Ed.-I believe T3240 has been identified with Thomas Meadows & Co., Water Street, Liverpool but has not appeared in Tomkins 7 or Up-date. I have a cover with T3250.01 (T.M./&C°) from Thomas Meadows & Co., Water Street, Liverpool but they were shipping agents. My loose stamps of T3250 are postmarked Liverpool but all my loose stamps of T3240 are postmarked London. Has this T3240 identity been another 'guess' by someone? The name Thomas Meadows seems to be the same but two completely different businesses.]

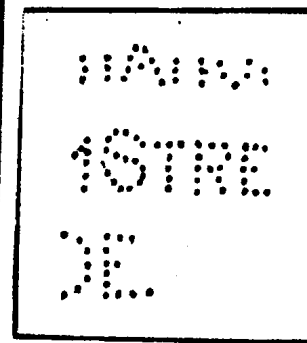
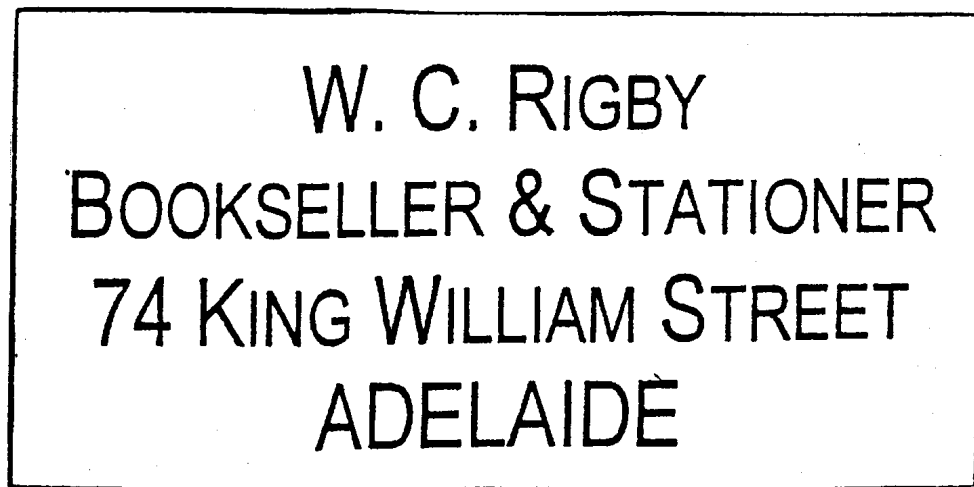
FROM W.C. RIGBY
BOOKSELLER & STATIONER
74 KING WILLIAM STREET
ADELAIDE.
ESTABLISHED 1859



(Actual size)

When I typed out the article about the envelope with perforated name and address, sent in by John Evans for the last Bulletin, it did not register with me that there had been a piece in the "*South Pacific Perfin Bulletin* ", No. 37, April 1997 about an allied perforation. I had read this article but because it was about an Australian perforation it had not remained in my memory.

JOHN MATHEWS has sent a copy of the relevant page which I include, with the illustrations, at this point.



The text reads:- An Interesting Company "Perfin".

"John Amiet has reported a South Australian stamp with 1904 postmark with the partial "perfin" shown. Because of the overall size of this "perfin ", it is probable that it was not intended to be used on stamps. Indeed, it cannot be determined whether the perforating was done to a sheet of stamps or to a document on which the stamp happened to be affixed.

"The address part of the pattern is part of "King William Street, Adelaide ". The partial word on the top line gives a clue to the user. In the 1905 Sands & McDougall Directory of South Australia, tenants in King William Street whose names or occupations could match this wording were W.C.Rigby, bookseller & stationer, at number 74, and Sands & McDougall, printers and stationers at number 64.

"Experimenting with different fonts gave a match with the partial perfin for Ariel narrow (or Helvetica narrow) size 24/20. When the company name/occupation/address was typed in this font., the exact correspondence of the positions of the set of letters in the perfin matched that of W.C.Rigby as shown. It is of note that this company also used WCR.1 and RIGBYADELAIDE.1 at about the same time. We do not yet have any proof that Sands & McDougall used a perforator in South Australia, although they may well have been agents for a manufacturer of perforators since the ledgers of Elder Smith & Co Ltd showed several entries for the purchase of stamps from Sands & McDougall".

John Mathews writes:- "I could not believe my eyes when I pulled the Bulletin out of its envelope yesterday, when it came out last page facing up and I saw the 'Rigby' perforation. Your article makes no further reference to the actual perfin other than the illustration. I presume the perforation was through the whole envelope? **[YES]**

"In the 1893 Directory, Thomas Meadows & Co are described as 'shipping, passenger and insurance agents, (etc); general European agents for the Merchants' Despatch Transportation Co. and American Express Co. of New York and Boston, USA; 35 Milk St, EC; 13 Water St, Liverpool; 51 Piccadilly, Manchester; 10 South Hanover St, Glasgow; & 4

Rue Scribe, Paris.' So T3240.01 and T3250.01 did belong to two different offices of the same company.

"But the connection with W C Rigby of Adelaide, South Australia (who incidentally supplied most of the text books when I was at secondary school) is in question. In the 1893 Directory, there is no entry for W C Rigby having their own office in London, as many Australian companies of the time did. My guess is that Thomas Meadows & Co were, at least in this instance, acting on their behalf and forwarding the envelope to Messrs Richard Bentley & Son. I do not know who might have made this amazing die for W C Rigby: I saw no mention of any of their dies in the Sloper books when I went through them in 1993."

JOHN NELSON sends the same description of MEADOWS, Thomas & Co, from his early Kelly's Directory. He goes on to say:-

"As for the W C Rigby envelope, how about this for a possible scenario. Early in 1893 Rigby wished to place a number of orders for books, required by his customers, from publishers in London, including Richard Bentley & Son of 8 New Burlington St., London W. The thin green envelopes containing these orders were not sent from Australia individually but were, under a standing arrangement between Rigby and Thomas Meadows & Co, despatched, unstamped, in a single package to Meadows at 35 Milk Street, London EC. When the package arrived on 19th June 1893, each green envelope including that to Bentley & Co, was backstamped by Meadows, one of their own perfin (T3240) was affixed and the orders were posted off on the same day."